

# MUSTANG DAILY

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY



'Turkey drop' trend leaves some lonely at the start of the holiday season.

IN ARTS, 6

Obama takes risk with Afghanistan policy.

IN NEWS, 3

The Silvey Lining evaluates the play of third-stringer Dennis Dixon.

IN SPORTS, 12



Volume LXXIV, Number 49

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

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## Bomb scare evacuates UPD

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

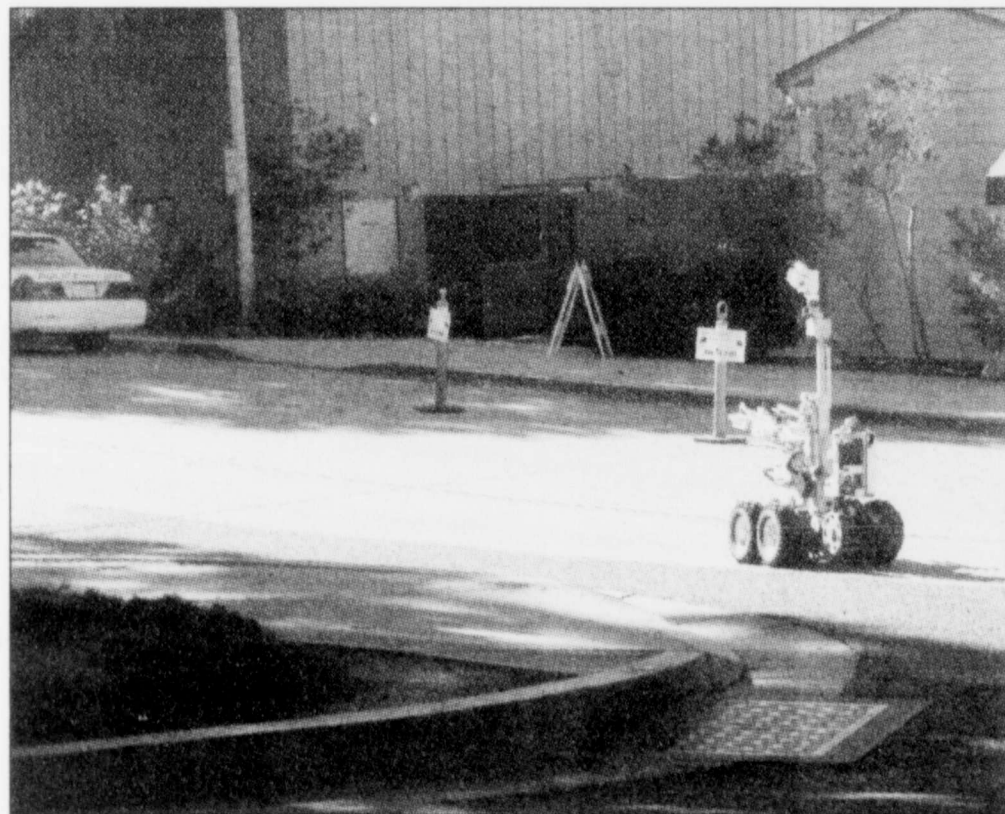
The University Police Department was evacuated after calling the bomb squad when a backpack was found outside Police Chief Bill Watton's office at 8:30 a.m. Monday.

The bomb squad was called because UPD police officers did not feel comfortable with the situation, Watton said. The bomb squad initially X-rayed the bag and still did not feel comfortable opening it. So, a bomb squad robot was sent in to open the bag and found a laptop and audio visual wires inside the backpack.

The road between the police station and the Corporation Administration building was closed off to all vehicles and pedestrians with orange cones and police officers standing at the entrance to Safety Way. A corporation employee said they were advised to stand away from windows.

"Likely what happened was an employee just found it and left it outside the police office," Watton said.

The backpack was found beyond



LETICIA RODRIGUEZ MUSTANG DAILY

Police used a robot to search the backpack after the bomb squad saw suspicious wires in an X-ray.

the door meant for authorized personnel and Watton said it could have been there over break when he left the office on Wednesday at 6 p.m. Watton said the area beyond the door is a private area but that it

is not always locked. Watton added UPD will try and return the backpack to its owner.

Leticia Rodriguez and Tim Miller contributed to this report.

## CSU Trustees gets new member and chair

Will Taylor

MUSTANG DAILY

The California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees appointed Herbert Carter board chair after the resignation Jeffrey Bleich who was named the Ambassador to Australia by the Obama administration on Nov. 18. Governor Schwarzenegger also appointed a new student trustee, Curtis Schlaufman of CSU Fullerton, on Nov. 20.

The Board of Trustees, which develops policy across the 23-campus CSU system, appointed Carter from his vice president position, which he had held since 2008. He has been part of the Board since 2004.

Carter has been involved in the CSU system for 35 years in a variety of administrative positions, according to a CSU press release.

The chair is "vital in leading the other trustees and policy direction of the entire board," CSU spokesman Erik Fallis said. He added that Carter has been a strong leader already.

The Board of Trustees, which is composed of 25 members, executes and controls policies across the entire CSU.

"The trustees would see any policy decision from say setting the alcohol policy to say the naming of a building from donations to formal budget requests," Fallis said. "They are really instrumental when it comes to all those policies."

The student trustee position, to which Schlaufman was just appointed, holds all the same powers and privileges as the other trustees once they enter their second year of a two-year term. Student trustee terms are staggered and Russell Statham, a masters student in business administration at Fresno State University, is now in his voting year as the student trustee.

Statham said the vote is just a minor part of the position.

"Your vote is a very small component of what it means to be a trustee," he said. "So many things happen outside of our meetings."

Outside meetings, sitting on California State Student Association (CSSA) and shadowing administration and faculty members are all duties that Statham said he undertakes. He said that he is confident that Schlaufman will be a good successor.

"Curtis is a very thoughtful person and I think he'll do a great job representing CSU students," he said. "I told him it will be one of the most challenging positions that he'll hold in his life with the budget shortfalls that we face."

Statham said that Bleich picked a hard time to leave.

"It's obviously quite bittersweet," he said. "He was an inspiration to a lot of us and we're excited for him."

Bleich, who was a litigation partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson law firm in San Francisco from 1995 through 2009, met President Obama when Bleich was going to Harvard University for his masters in public policy according to the U.S. Department of State Web site. He was also a contributor to President Obama's 2008 presidential campaign.

"But any time you lose a leader there's going to be an organizational adjustment," Statham said. "We have a great new chair for our board."

Cal Poly Provost Robert Koob said that it is too early to tell how Carter is doing in his new position. The policies that the Board of Trustees set are broad and are guidelines under which Cal Poly and the other campuses operate, Koob said.

"The policies effect us day-to-day only in the way it sets boundary conditions," he said. "A good example is the student fees last summer. Their actions matter, but it is not a direct contact in many ways."

The next Board of Trustees meeting is in January.

## Library houses winged friends

Bats, Birds and Bees all find their way into Robert E. Kennedy Library

Paige Malone Hernandez

SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

You can find birds, bees, bats and owls in the pages of books at the Robert E. Kennedy Library. Sometimes, you can also see them flapping or buzzing in the stacks.

"I've caught them in my hand before," Holly Richmond, interlibrary services assistant, said.

Richmond has been working at the library for 13 years, and has had to deal with birds on a few occasions during her career.

Sometimes sparrows, pigeons and small black birds get in through the second floor of the library, because the trees outside are so close to the windows, she said. Birds will nest in trees, then fly into the library where they get stuck.

Birds outside the library gates will hop right through the front door but most often they are chased out by students or staff, Richmond said.

Harvey Mushman, San Luis Obispo resident, who uses the library's computers two to three

times a week, caught a dove on the fourth floor in late October.

The bird was trapped and Mushman was trying to catch it because he didn't want it to suffer

**The owl was really sad ... he hit his head on the window and broke his beak.**

—Holly Richmond  
Interlibrary services assistant

from "flying into windows." After a few seconds, he was able to catch the bird and safely release it out of the window.

Business administration gradu-

ate Kirk Story watched Mushman and said that the bird was in the building for about 45 seconds.

Generally, food and warmth will draw birds inside the library, Richmond said. Bees will also come into the library because they are attracted to sodas.

To deal with the the birds, the library has a net. If the birds cannot be caught, staff will call facilities services or animal services when necessary, Richmond said. About 10 years ago animal services had to be called for an owl stuck in the atrium.

"The owl was really sad because owls can't fly up, so he hit his head on the window and broke his beak," Richmond said.

A bystander joked that the owl be taken to the science department to be stuffed and displayed, Richmond said. However, the owl was caught by animal services and taken to be treated for its injuries.

About five years ago, the library had another animal problem when

see Birds, page 2

### FYI...

Under present law there are 25 trustees (24 voting, one non-voting). Five Trustees are ex-officio members: the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the assembly, state superintendent of public instruction and the chancellor. The CSU statewide alumni council appoints an alumni trustee. The governor appoints a faculty trustee from nominees proposed by the statewide academic senate. The alumni and faculty trustees serve for two years. The governor appoints two student trustees from nominees proposed by the California State Student Association. These student trustees serve staggered two-year terms. One student trustee has full voting powers; the second, non-voting student trustee succeeds to the voting position upon the expiration of the term of the first. The sixteen remaining trustees are appointed by the governor, confirmed by the State Senate, and serve eight-year terms.



## Birds

continued from page 1

bats were found roosting somewhere near the building. One bat was seen in the library by Rich-

mond two to three different times in addition to multiple sightings by other students and staff.

Facilities services was called several times for the bat, and once a student volunteered to catch it. When the bat kept coming back into the building, animal services was finally called. They were able to catch the bat, and release it away from campus grounds.

Occasionally, students will complain to library staff when a bird or other animal gets into the building because it is distracting when they are doing their work.

Leaving the library windows closed would make the situation worse off for all students and staff, because there would be no ventilation in the building.

The library was originally designed for air conditioning, so screens were not placed on the window. However, no air conditioning was installed so the windows must stay open. The absence of screens allows birds and other animals to get into the library where students and staff are hard at work.

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# Rising debt threatens to derail Congress on just about everything

David Lightman  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — The Senate began a debate Monday over the future of health care in America that's likely to go on for weeks, but behind the scenes, lawmakers are struggling to resolve an even more explosive issue: how to pay for all their ideas.

Federal budget deficits remain at record highs. The national debt is \$12.1 trillion; Congress must vote soon to let it go higher, or else the Treasury won't be able to issue new debt. President Barack Obama is expected to announce Tuesday a plan to send an additional 30,000 to 35,000 American troops to Afghanistan, which will require more spending.

Despite the Obama administration's promise of a new era of fiscal responsibility, seven of the 12 major appropriations bills that set federal spending — including those that govern the budgets of the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services and Transportation — still haven't passed Congress.

Those agencies have been operating since Oct. 1 on stopgap resolutions; the next one expires Dec. 18.

Add to this the \$848 billion 10-year cost of the Senate health care proposal, and it appears that "it's all starting to come crashing down in one big piece," said Maya MacGuineas, the president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a Washington watchdog group.

Moderates and conservatives are urging the creation of a commission to study and recommend deficit-cutting strategies, and public support is strong. A survey Nov. 16-18 of 700 registered voters commissioned by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, a fiscal watchdog group, found that 66 percent said Washington officials weren't paying enough attention to budget issues, up 10 percentage points from February, and 70 percent favored a bipartisan commission to tackle the deficit and debt problems.

"The bottom line is that the American electorate is way ahead of Washington policymakers," said David Walker, the foundation's

president and chief executive officer.

A bipartisan group of a dozen senators wants to attach an amendment that would create such a commission to the bill to raise the federal debt ceiling above \$12.1 trillion, expected in mid-to late December.

Separately, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., and Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, the panel's top Republican, have proposed creating a deficit reduction task force that includes congressional and administration officials. Congress could be required to vote quickly on its proposals, amendments probably wouldn't be allowed and it would take a three-fifths majority to win approval, virtually requiring bipartisan support.

Reid is talking to colleagues about the idea, but it has a formidable opponent: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who thinks that the existing process is adequate to address such issues.

There are few politically viable fiscal alternatives left, said Isabel Sawhill, a senior fellow in economic studies at Washington's Brookings Institution, a center-left research center.

"We're not going to be able to raise taxes; the president has all but taken that off the table," she said. "Social Security would be very tough to take on, and defense spending is going up, not down."

Unless some sort of new budget process is created, Sawhill said, legislation to raise the federal limit could be imperiled. Obama could find a rough fight over Afghanistan funding, and the already shaky status of health care legislation could get even more wobbly.

The health care legislation is designed to pay for itself. The Senate bill would impose a 40 percent excise tax on high-cost health insurance policies and increase the Medicare payroll tax, now 1.45 percent, by 0.5 percentage point on single people with wages of more than \$200,000 annually and joint filers who earn more than \$250,000.

The health bill that the House of Representatives passed would impose a 5.4 percent income tax sur-

## Voters' priorities

The economy and government spending ranked highest among voter concerns in a recent survey.

Issue	Top/high priority
• Getting economy, jobs back on track	93%
• Dealing with growing budget deficit, national debt	80%
• Dealing with wars in Afghanistan, Iraq	77%
• Improving public schools	74%
• Dealing with countries unfriendly to U.S.	70%
• Dealing with manufacturing jobs moving overseas	69%
• Passing health care reform	56%
• Cutting taxes for middle class	51%
• Dealing with global warming	35%

Voters who feel strongly that leaders are not paying enough attention to our federal budget problems	Feb. 2009	56%
	Nov. 2009	66%

Source: Peter G. Peterson Foundation poll of 700 adults, Nov. 16-18, 2009; margin of error: +/- 3.7 percentage points

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Graphic: Lee Hulteng

charge on adjusted gross incomes of more than \$500,000 for singles and \$1 million for joint filers.

The money from those initiatives is supposed to go toward making health care more affordable, however, not reducing the budget deficit. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that the fiscal 2010 deficit should be nearly the same as last year's record \$1.4 trillion.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., told colleagues Monday that they're in for a long, hard fight on health care as debate formally opened. "Let's discuss the specifics of this bill, not the whispers and wild rumors," he urged. "While we will disagree at times, let us at least agree doing nothing is not an option."

"This has to be done in a way that's fiscally responsible," Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., said of the health care bill. "It has to be done in a way that is effective."

"If not, there ought not to be legislation passed, in my judgment."

## Be our GUEST!

The Mustang Daily is always accepting guest commentaries.

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\*Editors reserve the right to edit commentaries for spelling, grammar, style, length and profanity.

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# Obama faces high stakes in new Afghan policy

Steven Thomma and Nancy A. Youssef  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — With eight

years of blood and treasure already spent and perhaps his presidency hanging in the balance, President Barack Obama will tell the world Tuesday how he will escalate the

war in Afghanistan — and how he hopes his risky decision will lead finally to a path home for U.S. forces.

The stakes of his decision —

ordered into effect at 5 p.m. EST Sunday in the Oval Office — are enormous, and the challenges of making it work are daunting. He'll speak at 8 p.m. EST Tuesday from

the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

Perhaps his toughest task will be

see Policy, page 5

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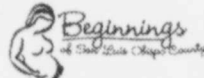
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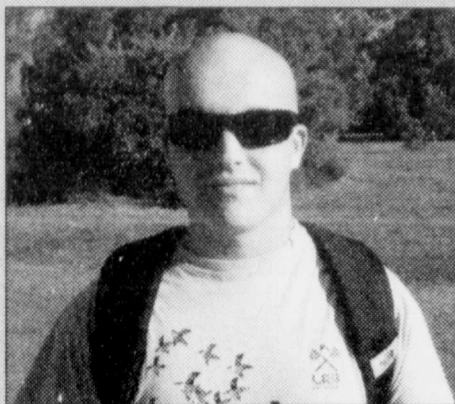
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WORD ON THE STREET

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"Definitely, it's good to get back on there and see how good my professors are for next quarter."

-Vinay Clauson, mechanical engineering senior

"Yeah, I used to use it in the past and was sad when it was down when I needed to take my last GE. I only have one quarter left so I'm already set."

-Andy Sofranko, mechanical engineering senior



"Probably not, I'm a fifth year. I don't really use it anymore."

-Daniella Castro, architectural engineering senior



"Yes, absolutely. It's just helpful to know what kind of professors I have. I'm worried there won't be as much information though."

-Jeffrey Thomas, landscape architecture senior



COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY JENNIFER TITCOMB



"I tried to use it in the past but it wasn't working. It's helpful but only if everyone uses it."

-Heather Wilson, industrial engineering freshman



"I'd like to get statistics and opinions. I use myedu.com and it gets you the real information."

-Jason Stine, liberal arts and engineering junior

Policy

continued from page 3

balancing his plan to send 30,000 to 35,000 more American troops with talk of new benchmarks for success and the strong signal that U.S. troops will turn over Afghanistan's security to Afghan forces and get out.

His expected talk on the end of the war is meant to spark Afghans to take charge of their own country — and to soothe anti-war Democrats here. Yet it also could suggest to the enemies that all they have to do is wait out an impatient United States, and to Pakistan, Iran, India and others that the U.S. lacks the stomach for a protracted battle.

Beyond that, he has to explain how his new plan can root out the Taliban, deny al-Qaida and its allies a sanctuary, straighten out a corrupt Afghan government so that people have an alternative to the Taliban and get neighboring Pakistan to fight terrorists who have fled there.

He also has to do it all while making sure that the tinderbox region isn't further inflamed by a belligerent Iran defiantly ramping up nuclear plans, a resurgence of ethnic and religious violence in Iraq or a growing Islamist insurgency in nuclear-armed Pakistan.

"It's probably the most important decision in his career," said Karin Von Hippel, a scholar at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a center-right research center in Washington. "There are so many moving parts that need to be aligned. ...I think we can do it, but it's a huge challenge."

Obama on Sunday summoned the members of his top military and security team to the White House to give them the final go-ahead on his plan. As McClatchy Newspapers first reported on Nov. 7, it would bolster the current 68,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan with another 30,000 to 35,000, to be deployed starting early next year.

After meeting with top officials from the Pentagon and White House staff, Obama spoke with Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal later Sunday evening via teleconference from the White House Situation Room. It was McChrystal, the top commander in Afghanistan, who requested additional troops to institute a new counterinsurgency strategy that would fight the Taliban while shoring up the Afghan government and Afghan forces.

As part of that, Obama will announce a planned expansion of the Afghan army to 240,000 and the Afghan police to 160,000 by October 2013.

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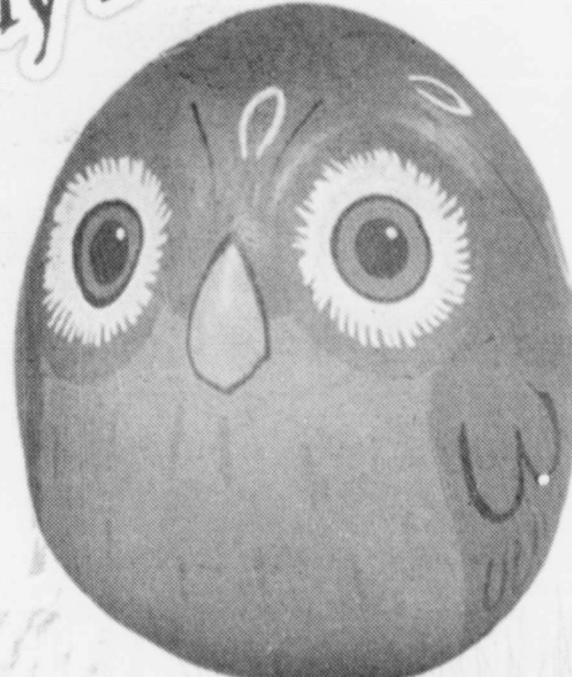
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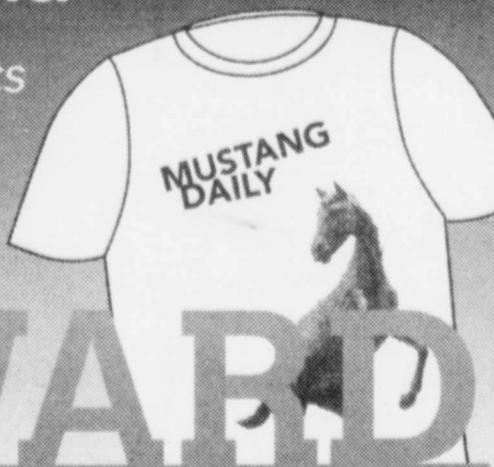
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sex & dating column

## Why you broke up last week: Case study of the "turkey drop"



*DISCLAIMER: Anecdote is based not on my personal experiences, but those of friends. So don't blame me...*

Thanksgiving break is a traditional time of gain for college students — in weight, sleep or both. However, for freshmen and transfers, it's a traditional time of loss as well. During this festive time of year, a

high number of breakups occur between these students and their significant others back home. Urban Dictionary calls this phenomenon the "turkey drop." Basically, college turns an ordinary relationship into a two-and-a-half-month time bomb, which few couples are able to dif-

see Turkey, page 8

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## Nontraditional documentary delves into the realm of true love



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael Cera and Charlyne Yi star in "Paper Heart," a documentary about whether true love really exists.

Rick Bentley

MICCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Coming Tuesday on DVD is "Paper Heart," a "hybrid documentary" that features real interviews with people talking about whether love exists mixed with a fictional storyline about love skeptic Charlyne Yi falling for actor Michael Cera.

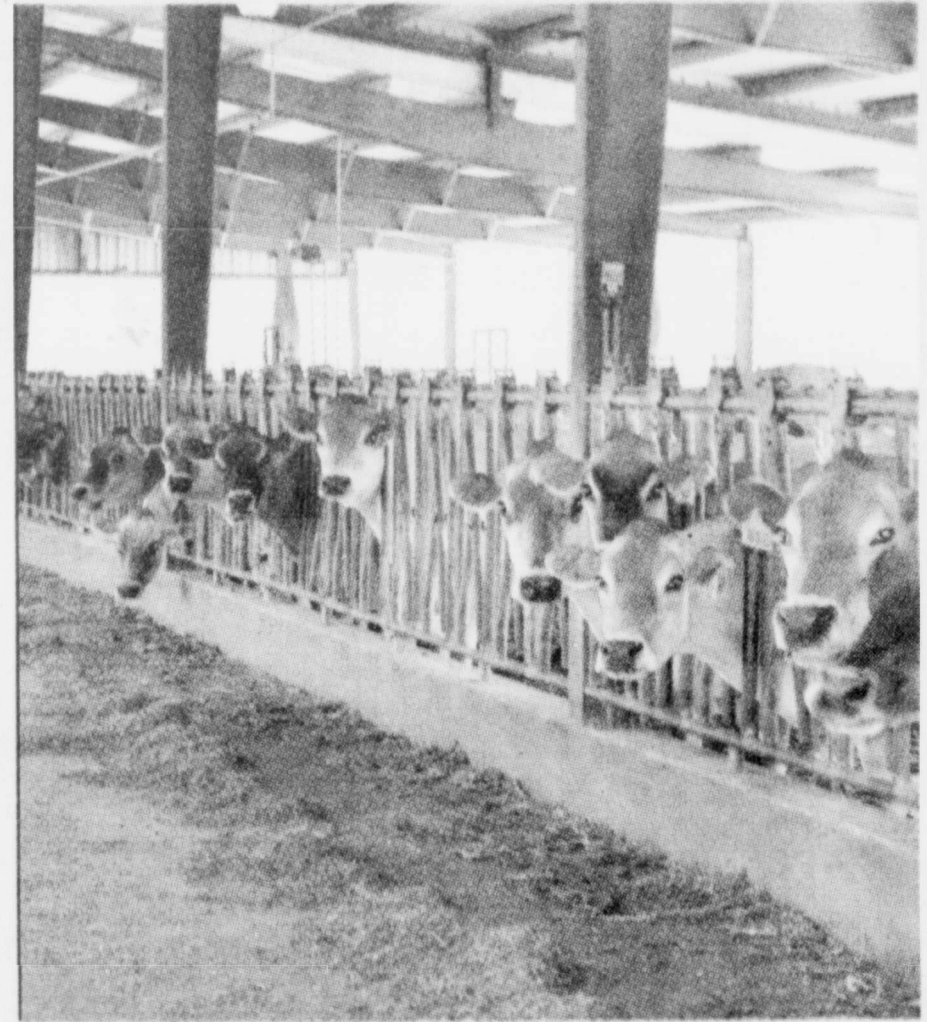
The project started off as an idea from Yi, sparked by conversations with her older friends, to make a traditional documentary. The questions she had about love had more to do with how a person knows when they have found true love and whether divorce means there never was true love in the relationship.

Once Yi started talking with filmmaker Nicholas Jasenovec

about the project, he suggested 90 minutes of people talking about love might not be too interesting. It was his idea for the Yi-Cera storyline to serve as an arc to hold together the interviews.

"People keep asking me if this is my showcase. I never wanted to be on screen," says Yi, who reluctantly

see Love, page 8



picture of the day  
by Daniel Triassi  
"Curiosity"

### MUSTANG DAILY'S

### NFL Pigskin Picks

Circle the winner of each game

10	Eagles @ Falcons	10
20	Titans @ Colts	20
30	Broncos @ Chiefs	30
40	Saints @ Redskins	40
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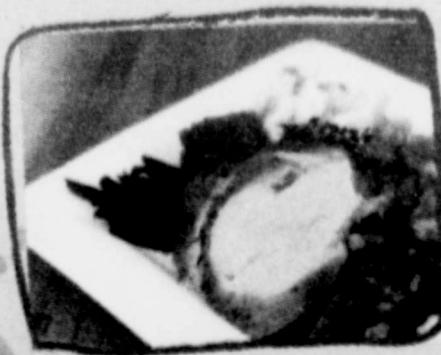
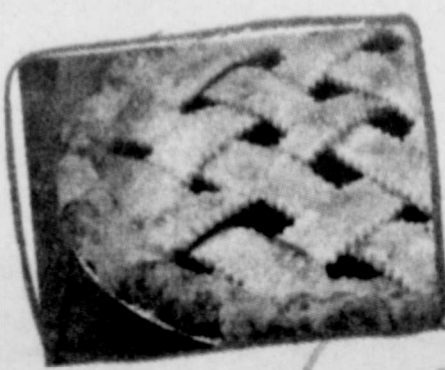
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## Love

continued from page 7

agreed to be on screen after some convincing by the director.

The Los Angeles native has had small parts in films like "Semi-Pro" and "Knocked Up." Most of her career has been on stage. She performed in the New York Comedy Festival and HBO's U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen.

Interviewing was a new job for

her. Although some of her subjects met with a casting director before Yi and her crew rolled into cities like Nashville, Lubbock and Oklahoma City, all of the responses were genuine.

"I wanted to treat them with respect because they trusted me. I can't believe they invited me into their homes. I didn't want to do something like 'Borat,'" Yi says referring to the ambush style of interviews for films by Sacha Baron Cohen.

Yi was not familiar with Cera before the film.

She watched episodes of his TV series "Arrested Development" and thought Cera was a good choice for the film because of his improvisational skills and willingness "not to get paid really well."

The film might not make her rich, but "Paper Heart" did teach Yi a lesson about love.

"No matter what happens," she says, "you will always have those good memories of being together."

# SHARING IS CARING!

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(Hey, it'll give you something to talk to Mom about.)

## Turkey

continued from page 6

fuse.

For example, let's pretend I had a boyfriend in high school. We'd gotten together in May or so and had been absolutely happy ever since. We realize that we're going to separate colleges, but neither of us abandons our choice to follow the other (which is an even worse idea). We know that maintaining the relationship will be hard, and promise to call each other every night as we

say our tearful farewells at the airport. We part knowing that our love is strong and pure and will see us through this separation.

Along comes Week of Welcome. Thrust into a group of 15 strangers, it's difficult not to meet new people. I meet even more people the next week — in classes, in my dorm, at the dining hall ... wherever. I like talking to some of these people, and we do other things together. Suddenly, I have friends and we have fun together. I tell my boyfriend about all of this, and listen to stories of his new friends. We know that we

can't just be hermits in love, but it's hard to make time for both friends and one another. His friends think he talks to me too often; my friends think my boyfriend sounds like a loser. We have less and less in common, as we have different majors. Calls become less frequent. We start wondering what the other is doing.

One night, I go to a party and have what he sees as a little too much fun. A picture on Facebook shows a guy with his hand on my shoulder. My boyfriend wants to know who he is. He's just a friend, and I say so, but he doesn't believe me. Although I'm not cheating on him, the idea is looking more and more attractive, what with the abundance of new men all around. Who's to say that they wouldn't be better boyfriends since I have never given them a chance? Did I decide on my one true love too soon? Especially since we don't trust each other anymore, it can't be healthy, right? And who needs all this drama when I have school to worry about? I start to consider a breakup.

But why Thanksgiving break?

Because I'm not a dick and I want to do it right and break up in person, that's why. For most students, Thanksgiving is the first opportunity to return home since September, which theoretically would mean a happy reunion of the lovebirds. Happy reunions that quickly shatter into breakups. Even if the breakup isn't premeditated, the contact could backfire. If you think that one date can somehow fix your problems, then prepare to be sorely disappointed. Besides being awkward because of the long separation, the reunion could reveal how much a couple has changed, or how little magic is still there.

Thankfully, recent freshmen are less naïve. It is common knowledge that distance can kill a relationship, and many couples are opting to break up before it has the opportunity. The possibility of a preemptive breakup can prompt the claim that you are the one-in-a-million couple who can make it work. Are you, though? Well, in my opinion, this one-in-a-million couple would absolutely need to have:

1. A strong relationship before school starts (at least four months solid)
2. Trust in each other
3. Independent social lives
4. Good communication
5. Contact at least once a week, preferably daily (via phone, IM, Facebook etc.)
6. Face-to-face contact as much as possible, preferably once a month (video chat doesn't count)
7. Sex, through any of the contact media.

If you made it through the break with your significant other still officially yours, then congratulations. If you just suffered a breakup, then condolences. And if you are about to go off to school and start a long-distance relationship, than I wish you the best of luck. We all hope that love will win out, and a love that can outlast the rigors of a long-distance relationship is a love I wish everyone had.

Anthony Rust is a biology junior. Burning questions and bright ideas may be e-mailed to [arust@calpoly.edu](mailto:arust@calpoly.edu)

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Editor in chief: Emilie Egger  
Managing Editor: Alex Kacik

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9

## Americans still have plenty to be thankful for

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I'd like to take this opportunity to focus on what's right with our country. In my family, during Thanksgiving dinner we go around the table and say what we're thankful for. So rather than critique things or express what I'd like to see in the future, I want to focus on the things that I'm proud of and thankful for right now.

I'm thankful for our media. Whether you like getting your news from the television, newspaper, radio or the Internet, we have quite the abundance of choices in the United States. Thank goodness we don't live behind the great firewall of China or have the system the Iranians do where the government has blocked sites like YouTube, Twitter and Facebook in the past. It's very easy to take for granted all the information we have access to since there's so much information out there that we can easily get our hands on. Even the fact that you can go into the school library and pick up a copy from a newspaper from a country on the other side of the world as us really goes to show you that we do have a lot of freedom when it comes to the press and media.

I'm thankful for our Constitution. The more I learn about the Constitution the more I come to appreciate it and what it set out for our country. It describes core rights that we have that are essential for our freedom and well being. These rights are not always respected as they should be, but we can always point back to the Constitution as the supreme law of the land and remind people of our rights as both human beings and Americans. It was written so the people could be the masters of it, and as such it's relatively easy to understand (even without a



law degree) and it's not too lengthy. The Constitution in my eyes is one of the most powerful and important documents ever written.

I'm thankful for our judicial system. I know it's not perfect but overall I'm very happy with it. The idea that we are judged by our peers is a powerful concept. In a world where public outrage is easily formed, it's reassuring to see that usually

cooler heads prevail and arguments are heard in a court of law. The rule of law is a great thing and without it life would be very unstable and much more difficult for all of us.

I'm thankful for all the land that makes up the United States; what a diversity of terrain we have from Alaska down to Florida. Even in San Luis Obispo you can go down-town for a more urban setting or you can head just a few miles to where



Foothill Blvd. meets Los Osos Valley Road and it's like you're in a totally different setting with all the open land. We have a lot of great national parks in addition to access to two oceans and many terrific lakes in between.

I'm thankful for our innovative spirit. In a country where refrigeration, motorcycles, jeans, airplanes, supermarkets, masking tape, chemotherapy, transistors, defibrillators, cable television, credit cards, barcodes, the polio vaccine and even spandex were created, you have to see that we're a pretty innovative country. These innovations are beneficial to literally billions of people around the world and help improve our quality of life. I can only imagine what we'll invent in the future that will further improve our lives.

Last but not least, I'm thankful for my greater family that is the American public. I think we have some of the brightest, kindest and resourceful minds among us. The other day it dawned on me how diverse we all are and yet how well we get along. I saw a Lamborghini and an old clunker on the same stretch of road, and I'm sure the owners live very different lives, yet they both call the United States home and can share the same road together. We are indeed a great melting pot of cultures, ethnicities, religions and philosophies. I have a great deal of confidence in our future because of the strength of the people that make up the United States.

Aaron Berk is a computer engineering junior and Mustang Daily political columnist.



What about the fact that there's a bomb squad truck on campus right now, between the Corporation building and the Police De-

partment. Wouldn't this be a good time to use the alert system?

—Tara

In response to "BLOG: Emergency Alert System isn't used"

The e-mail notification, which took roughly 18 hours to get out, clearly stated that "He (Ryan Soqui) may be in the San Luis Obispo area" and the subject line was "Crime Alert — Timely Warning," which doesn't seem to

be consistent with Chief Watton's statement. For the police to take so long to get information out to the public is ludicrous.

"If it's reasonably determined that they are not in the area, then we will wait to tell students about the crime." —Chief Watton

Why wait? If you're going to tell us about an armed and dangerous parolee, why not just do it immediately? What is gained by sitting on the information?

—Aaron

In response to "BLOG: Emergency Alert System isn't used"

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject.

### MUSTANG DAILY

The voice of Cal Poly since 1916

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(805) 756-1143 advertising  
(805) 756-6784 fax  
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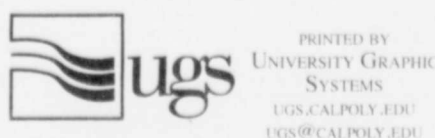
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Tuesday, December 1, 2009  
Volume LXXIV, No. 49 ©2009  
Mustang Daily

"But you've got three feet of attitude on us."

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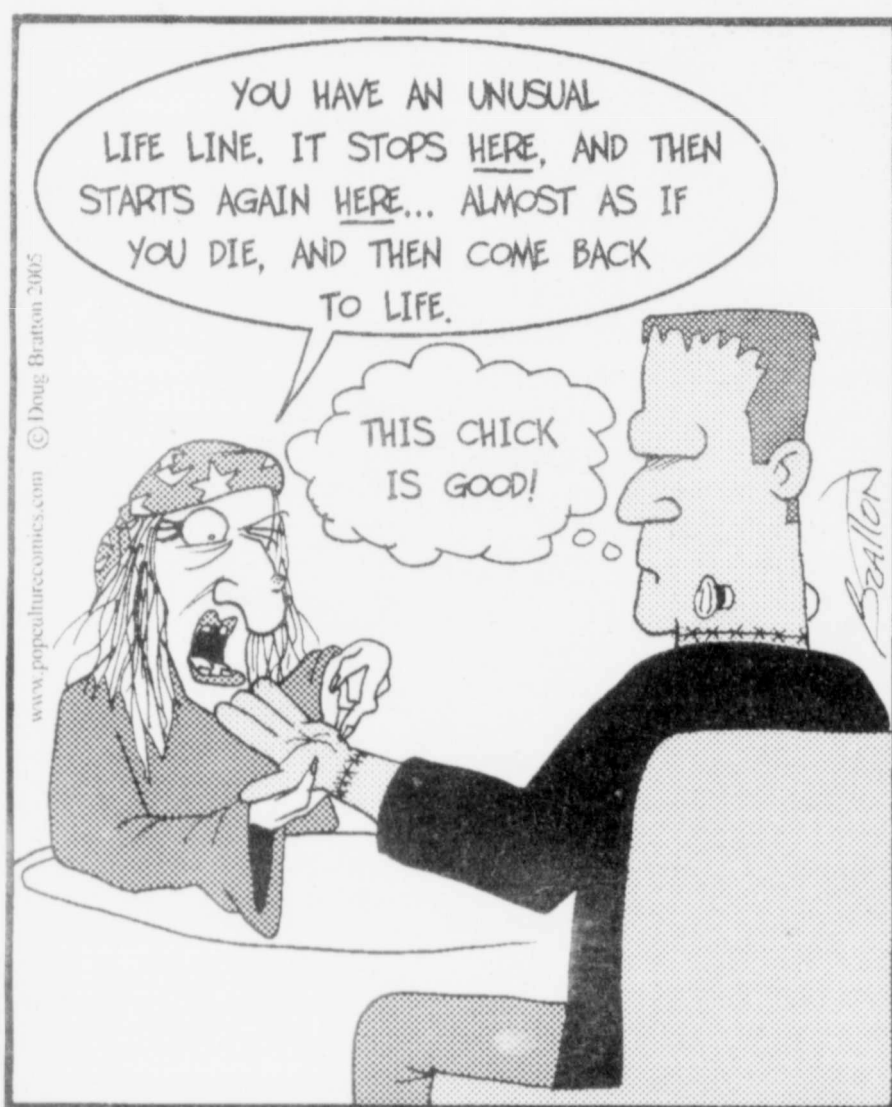
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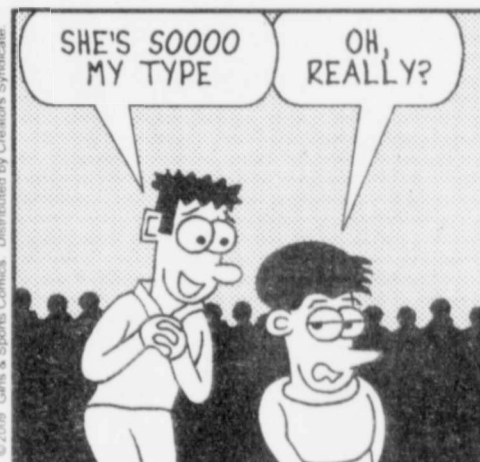
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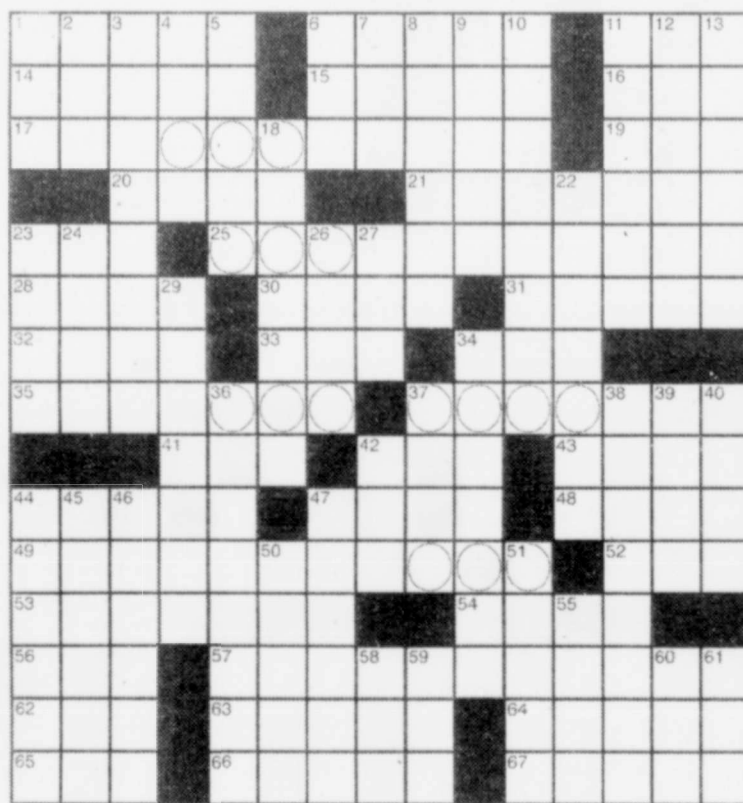


- Across**
- Mountains
  - "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" has five of these
  - "Spare" thing at a barbecue
  - Eskimo
  - Instrument played with a bow
  - Gate guess: Abbr.
  - Solid with four triangular faces
  - Scoundrel
  - Lone Star
  - Stater's northern neighbor
  - Unnamed person
  - Part of a word: Abbr.
  - Chief of staff in the Obama White House
  - Alternative to an iron, in golf
  - Sword fight, e.g.
  - Midway between sober and drunk
- Down**
- "Dies \_\_\_\_" (hymn)
  - Seat where people may sing
  - Knee's place
  - Start of the Bible
  - Post-W.W. II demographic, informally
  - Bit of wordplay
  - Boar's mate
  - x, y and z, in math
  - Commercial writers
  - 1958 sci-fi classic, with "The"
  - Population fig., e.g.
  - High muck-a-muck
  - Lifesaving team, for short
  - Most difficult
  - Loretta who sang "Don't Come Home A' Drinkin'" (With Lovin' on Your Mind)

- Cobbler's tool
- Shouter of this puzzle's circled sounds
- "Didn't I tell you?"
- John Lennon's "Instant \_\_\_\_"
- Explosive
- Word repeated after "If at first you don't succeed"
- Bird of prey's dip
- Previously, in poetry

## Down

- Quarry
- Suffix with propyl
- Help in buying a car
- Captain for Spock and McCoy
- Series of steps between floors
- "\_\_\_\_ been there"
- Reinforcements
- Tiny bit to eat
- Flower
- Redwood City's county
- Win back, as losses
- Online music mart
- By a hair
- First thing usually hit by a bowling ball
- Riddles
- Big swallow
- Days of \_\_\_\_
- Colors
- Kitten's plaint
- Part of a pool for diving



Puzzle by Chuck Deodene

- Like an offer that's under actual value
- Places for tanning
- Idiot
- Reach as far as
- 500 sheets
- Old trans-Atlantic speedsters
- Driver's caution to reduce speed
- Shocked
- Bureau part
- Jacob whose ghost appears to Scrooge
- Fernando \_\_\_\_ painter of plump figures
- "Nonsense!"
- Carion consumer
- Innocent
- Popular music style
- Popular music style
- Go wrong
- \_\_\_\_ v. Wade

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AGEE URNS STEER  
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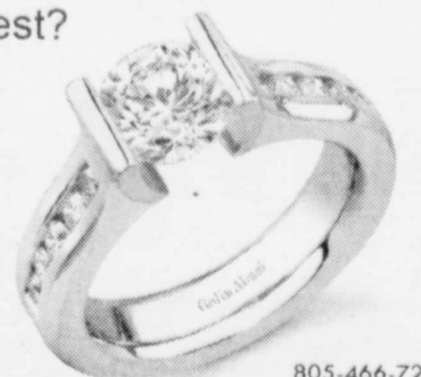
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## Smith

continued from page 12

Davis and wideout Michael Crabtree, had gone to the 49ers coaches and lobbied to open up the offense a little more, use the spread formation more often and not be as run-focused.

Much to the lobbyists' surprise, the 49ers coaches didn't kick them out of the lobby. Davis said that when the offensive game plan was presented to the team Wednesday morning, this was his reaction: "I smiled."

The plan, you see, called for the 49ers to be more wide open, right out of the gate. Smith passed on five of the first six plays, three of them from the shotgun formation. The drive led to only a field goal. The tone was set, though. In the first half alone, Smith attempted 29 passes and completed 18, both career highs. Just as planned.

"But," Smith said, "you still don't always know what it's going to look like come game day, how things are going to unravel. I thought we did a good job today, top to bottom ...

"I still think we still left a lot out there."

Hmmmm. The running argument among Smith-watchers has been whether his lack of progress as a pro has been due to his own shortcomings, or because the 49ers chose to limit his chances of flinging the ball. We might have received a clue Sunday.

2. Would the 49ers have a win-

ning record if Crabtree had been with them the entire season?

Yes, it says here. Congratulations to Crabtree for showing up ready to play when he finally did sign his contract. But if the 49ers do miss the playoffs, some of the blame must still fall on his shoulders for holding out so stubbornly and stupidly.

Crabtree had four more catches Sunday. A couple of them were strong and sexy, worthy of his first-round selection.

It's impossible not to notice how much more space he's created for Davis and the other 49ers receivers since he showed up in late October.

Crabtree also dropped a pass in the end zone on what Smith later called his best throw of the day. Because of that rookie muff, Crabtree merely had a good game instead of a great one.

But if this had been his 11th game as a 49er instead of his sixth, he might not have dropped the pass.

3. How much of the 49ers' defensive struggles have actually been the fault of the team's short-possession offense?

The 49ers had superior possession time Sunday, which has been the case in all five of their victories. Only a fool would not make the connection between that and the 49ers' defensive performances in those games, as well.

Numbers don't tell you everything. But at least in the statistical sense, this team's success is far more dependent on how its defense performs. In the 49ers' five victories,

the defense has allowed an average of seven points per game. In their six defeats, they have allowed 29.6 points per game.

One possible reason?

When the 49ers' offense goes three-and-out, by the second half, the 49ers' defense goes onto the field with less energy. Dre' Bly, making his first start for the team at cornerback Sunday, affirmed that theory while praising the 49ers' offense.

"Any defense is helped by any offense that stays out there longer," Bly said. "When the defense comes off and we sit there for 10 seconds, then have to get right back up ... that wasn't the case today."

4. If the 49ers fall short of making the playoffs, will they look back with regret on their early reluctance to be less run-fixated offensively?

They should. Of course, Shaun Hill was the starting quarterback in September under new offensive coordinator Jimmy Raye. But could the 49ers have done in September what they did Sunday?

"I don't know that would probably be a better question for Shaun to answer," Smith said. "But I think we're fully capable of it. There's a learning curve with it. The first year together, doing things, there's always going to be some type of learning curve."

The next and most important questions are whether the curve continues, and whether the Alex Smith who shows up next week in Seattle was the same one we saw Sunday at Candlestick. Fascinating answer to come.

## Quarterback

continued from page 12

traveling to play Jacksonville and Buffalo for a combined record of 27-28.

Pretty much everyone thought that if the Saints were going to lose, it would be on Monday night against the Patriots.

Not only did they win, they dominated New England. The Saints made Tom Brady look more like Jay Cutler than himself.

Even Bill Belichick imploded again, going for another extremely questionable fourth down late in the third quarter in a desperate attempt to keep up with the Saints offense.

Indianapolis has won four straight games while trailing at some point in the fourth quarter. Teams continue to give Peyton Manning too much respect and he

makes them pay dearly.

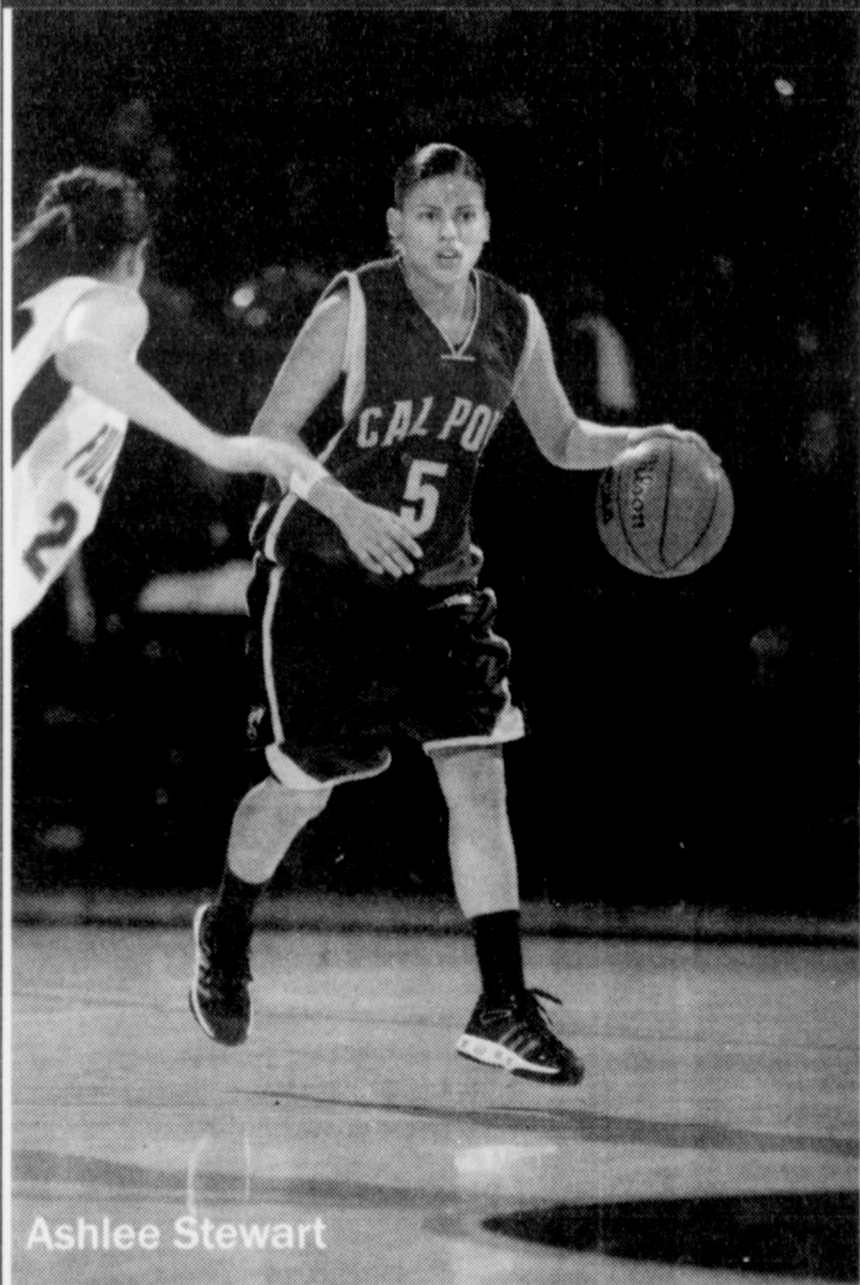
The question is, can a team like the Saints win consistently in the playoffs? They did make a run to the NFC Championship Game a couple years ago, but can that defense continue to play at a high level for three consecutive weeks.

We already know the Colts can.

Lost in all of this are the Vikings, who seem to have either a future hall of famer, or at least a perennial pro-bowler at every position. Minnesota easily has the most talent in the NFL. They could potentially be the most talented team in NFL history. But can head coach Brad Childress actually coach, the guy was on the verge of being fired before Brett Favre came in. He's always had the talent to make the Vikings a contender. He just hasn't made the right choices. We'll find out what he can do in the playoffs this year, finally facing a Superbowl or bust mentality.

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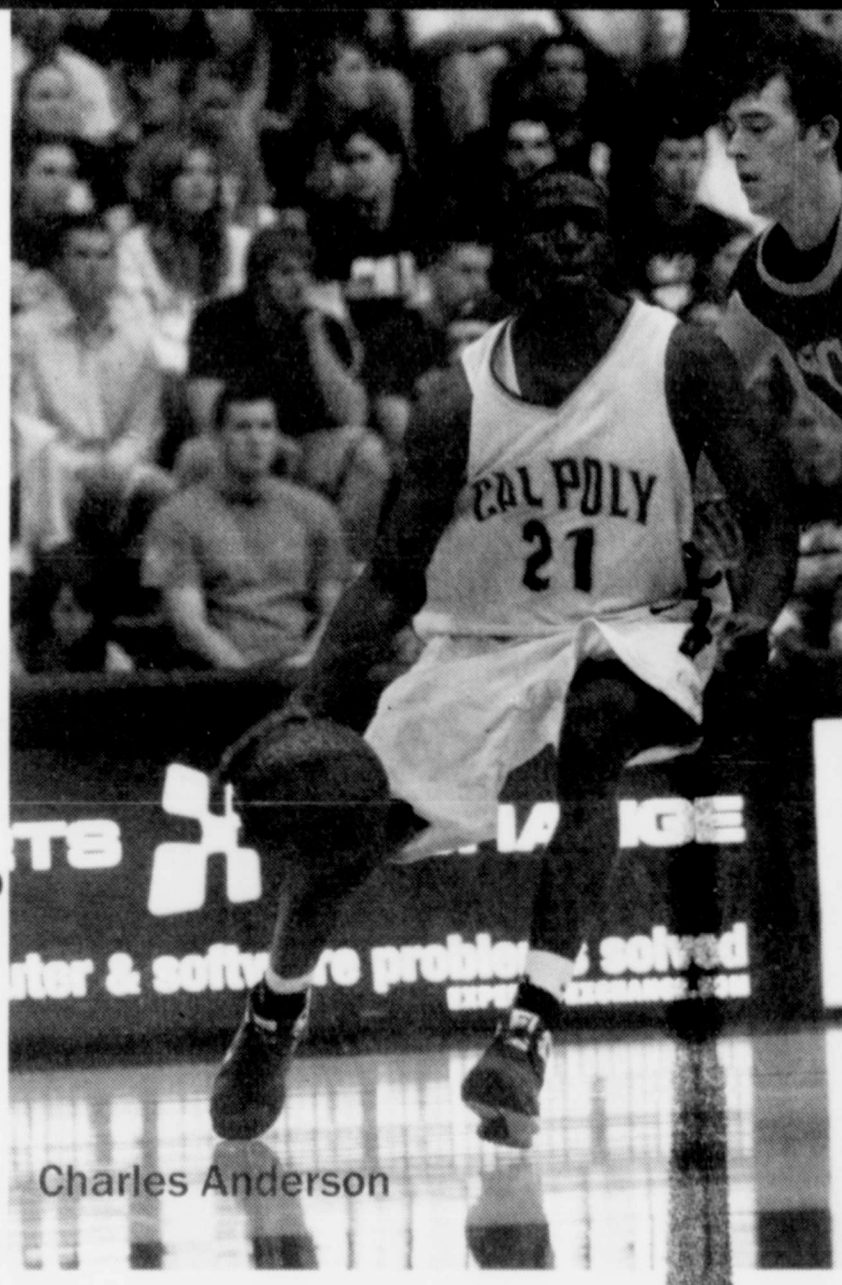
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## Dennis the menace

Scott Silvey

ON THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The cosmos can often times throw a person into a situation that they want no part of. Remember that time you got roped into watching that "Care Bears" movie with your 5-year-old cousin after the babysitter cancelled?

After the movie you spent the next few hours arguing with the kid about whether Good Luck Bear was a better leader than Tenderheart Bear.

OK, so maybe that was just me. But it turns out I've got nothing on Dennis Dixon.

The third-string Steelers quarterback was thrust into the spotlight on Sunday night when Ben Roethlisberger and Charlie Batch were both unable to play against the Ravens in Baltimore.

Dixon's only NFL completion was a 3-yarder to Hines Ward last year. The guy wasn't even a traditional quarterback in college, as he ran the spread offense and kept many plays alive via his feet and yet here he is starting in a nationally televised game against one of the world's scariest defenses.

The poor guy can't catch a break. In 2006, Dixon had Oregon within a couple of games of a national championship appearance and had almost assuredly wrapped up the Heisman Trophy when he suffered an ACL

tear and was sidelined for the season. The Ducks would lose out and Dixon would never be considered among the great Pac-10 quarterbacks of the era.

Somehow he played well enough Sunday to guide the Steelers into overtime where he eventually made the mistake people were waiting for, throwing an interception that leads to Baltimore's winning score.

The fans jumped all over him, and he is already proclaimed to be a bust. It was sad to see the Steelers show no faith in him, constantly running on first and second down while allowing the Ravens to gear up for a 3rd-and-7 situation that could only mean a pass.

And sometimes even in those situations, the Steelers would run.

If you're going to send him out there, don't send him out there with an unloaded weapon.

But chances are, Big Ben will be back next week, especially after Ward called him out in a pregame interview, so Steelers fans can file this memory away like many other fans have had to do with third-string quarterbacks who somehow starts a game.

### Vin-sanity

How many fourth downs in a fourth quarter two-minute drill can one quarterback convert in a single game?

Three if you're Vince Young.

The self-proclaimed future hall of famer certainly looked like one when it mattered on Sunday. Young looked more like Joe Montana as he drove the Titans 99 yards in two minutes for the game-winning touchdown pass as the clock expired.

Young was 9-of-16 passing for 94 yards on the final drive alone. Compare that to Derek Anderson's entire game-winning line against Buffalo earlier this year — 2 of 17 for 23



MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

After the Steeler's first- and second-string quarterbacks did not play due to injuries, third-string quarterback Dennis Dixon got the start against division rival Baltimore Ravens. In his opportunity to shine, the former Heisman Trophy candidate passed for 145 yards and a score.

yards.

Some backup quarterbacks don't even get 16 pass attempts in a career, let alone on one drive.

The whole Young versus Leinart thing was completely played out in the media, but how ironic was it that this time Young won the game with his arm, rather than his legs. The maturation process is almost complete.

### The Perfect Storm

With five games to go in the regular season, the New Orleans Saints and Indianapolis Colts are closing in on twin 16-0 seasons.

In a league that proclaims to be all about parity, the NFL is on its way to having two perfect teams to go along with a 15-1 team in Minnesota.

The Saints close out the season

with road games against Washington, Atlanta (who may be without Matt Ryan) and Carolina and with home games against Dallas and Tampa Bay.

Those teams have a combined record of 22-33.

Meanwhile Indianapolis has a slightly tougher road. The Colts host Tennessee, Denver and the Jets while

see Quarterback, page 11

# Niners, Smith raise more questions in victory

Mark Purdy

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

SAN FRANCISCO — Apologies to Alex Smith. Really. Sincerely.

Last week in Green Bay, the 49ers quarterback was awful in the first half, threw a crucial interception in the second half and raised serious doubts about whether he could ever be an effective NFL starting quarterback.

Never mind.

Sunday afternoon at Candlestick Park, Smith reversed the

equation.

He reversed it so severely, some of us suffered whiplash. Smith had his best game as an NFL starter in a 20-3 victory over Jacksonville. He had zero interceptions, two touchdown passes and a sweet 96.8 passer rating.

What happened?

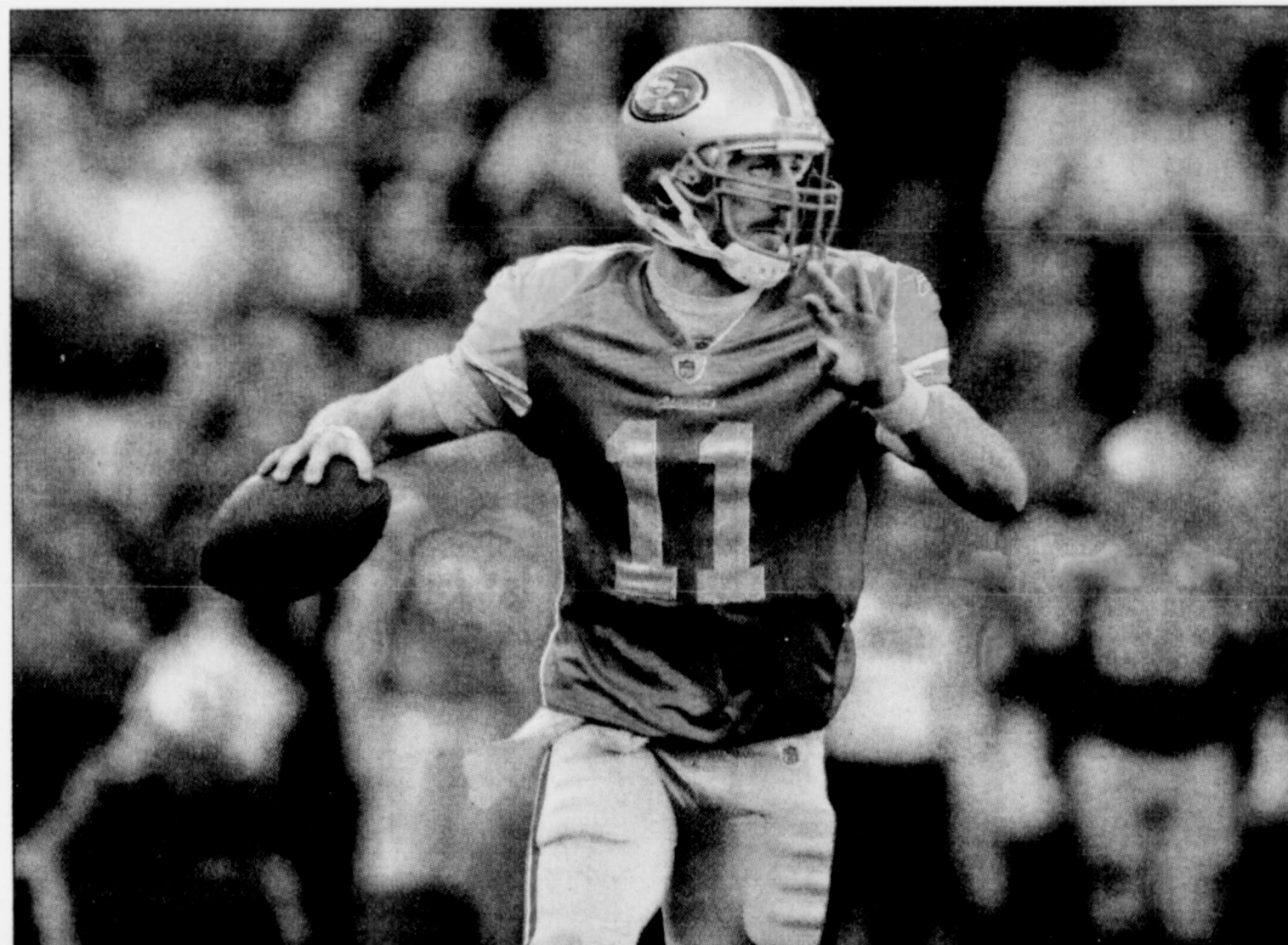
"I just feel better about seeing what I see out there," Smith said afterward. "Understanding it, trusting it and pulling the trigger."

Trigger-happy Alex? My goodness. There's a phrase that none of us ever expected to use in a column about Smith.

However, as has been the case throughout this unusual season, the 49ers raise more far questions when they win than when they lose. And these were Sunday's head-scratchers:

1. Has it really been the system holding back Smith all along, not his own play?

The performance against the Jaguars makes you wonder. After the Green Bay loss, Smith and two of his receivers, tight end Vernon



MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Quarterback Alex Smith has thrown for 1,267 yards and 11 touchdowns in the six games he started this season. Against Jacksonville last Sunday, he passed for 232 yards and two touchdowns in arguably his best performance of his career, fueling a 20-3 win against a team which had won three straight games.

see Smith, page 11

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TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

5	6	2	7	8	4	9	3	1
1	8	4	9	2	3	7	6	5
9	7	3	1	5	6	2	4	8
2	4	6	8	7	9	1	5	3
8	3	9	6	1	5	4	2	7
7	1	5	4	3	2	6	8	9
3	5	1	2	6	7	8	9	4
6	9	8	3	4	1	5	7	2
4	2	7	5	9	8	3	1	6